
NICARAGUA

In spite of significant reductions in poverty in recent years, Nicaragua remains one of the poorest countries in the Americas. It has the second-lowest gross domestic product per capita in the western hemisphere, and 30% of the population lives below the national poverty line. Poverty is concentrated in rural areas, with half of rural residents living below the poverty line.

Agriculture employs a third of the workforce, of which over 60% are subsistence farmers with some of the lowest productivity rates in the region. Productivity is hindered by low levels of basic economic infrastructure—particularly access to electricity and irrigation—and very low use of technology in production and post-production processes. In addition, Nicaragua is highly vulnerable to adverse climate events. This disproportionately affects small-scale subsistence farmers.

Sixty-five percent of the country's population is under the age of 30. They face significant challenges due to limited job opportunities, low levels of education and skills, and pressure to migrate, particularly for those in rural areas.

Canada's development program in Nicaragua focuses on inclusive growth and poverty reduction. It targets communities and beneficiaries located in the vulnerable and remote Dry Corridor region of the country. Synergies are built into various projects to support subsistence farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs in the area. By supporting the extension of Nicaragua's electrical grid, Canada is also helping to bring electricity to poor rural and remote communities. Electricity is a key input for both economic and social development.



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